

The Tragedy of Hamlet

Cour. Of *Laertes*?

Hora. His purse is empty already, all's golden words are spent.

Ham. Of him fir.

Cour. I know you are not ignorant.

Ham. I would you did fir; yet in faith if you did it would not much approve me: well fir.

Cour. You are ignorant of what excellence *Laertes* is.

Ham. I dare not confesse that, lest I should compare with him in excellence; but to know a man well were to know himselfe.

Cour. I meane fir for his weapon, but in the imputation laid on him by them in his meed hee's unfellowed.

Ham. What's his weapon?

Cour. Rapier and dagger.

Ham. That's two of his weapons; but well.

Cour. The King fir hath wager'd with him fixe *Barbery* horses, against the which he has impawn'd as I take it six *French* Rapiers and Poniards, with their assignes, as girdle, hanger, and so: three of the carriages in faith are very deare to fancy, very responsive to the hilts, most delicate carriages, and of very liberall conceit.

Ham. What call yon the carriages?

Hora. I knew you must be edified by the margin ere you had done.

Cour. The carriages fir are the hangers.

Ham. The phrase would be more german to the matter if wee could carry a cannon by our sides, I would it might be hangers till then: but on, fixe *Barbery* horses against fixe *French* swords, their assignes, and three liberall conceited carriages, that's the *French* bet against the *Danish*, why is this all you call it?

Cour. The King fir, hath laid fir, that in a dozen passes betweene your selfe and him he shall not exceed you three hits, he hath laid on twelve for nine, and it would come to immediate triall, if your Lordship would vouchsafe the answer.

Ham. How if I answer no?

Cour. I meane my Lord the opposition of your person in triall.

Ham. Sir I will walke here in the hall, if it please his Majestie, it is the breathing time of day with me, let the foiles be brought, the Gentleman willing, and the King hold his purpose, I will win for him and I can; if not, I will gaine nothing but my shame and the odde hits.

Cour.

Prince of Denmaike.

Cour. Shall I deliver you so?

Ham. To this effect fir, after what flourish your nature will.

Cour. I commend my duty to your Lordship.

Ham. Yours does well to commend it himselfe, there are no tongues else for his turne.

Hora. This Lapwing runs away with the shell on his head.

Ham. A did so fir with his dugge before a suckt it; thus has he & many more of the same breed that I know, the droffie age dotes on, onely got the tune of the time, and out of an habit of incounter, a kinde of misty collection, which carries them through and through the most profane and trennowned opinions; and doe but blow them to their triall, the bubbles are out.

Enter a Lord.

Lord. My Lord, his Majestie commended him to you by young *Ostricke*, who brings back to him that you attend him in the hall, he sends to know if your pleasure hold to play with *Laertes*, or that you will take longer time?

Ham. I am constant to my purposes, they follow the Kings pleasure; if his fitnesse speaks, mine is ready, now or whensoever, provided I be so able as now.

Lord. The King and Queen and all are comming downe.

Ham. In happy time.

Lord. The Queen desires you to use some gentle entertainment to *Laertes* before you goe to play.

Ham. She well instructs me.

Hora. You will lose my Lord.

Ham. I doe not thinke so, since he went into *France* I have bin in continuall practice; I shall win at the oddes: thou wouldst not think how ill all's here about my heart, but it is no matter.

Hora. Nay good my Lord.

Ham. It is but foolery, but it is such a kind of game-giving as would perhaps trouble a woman.

Hora. If your mind dislike any thing obey it, I shall forestall their repaire hither, and say you are not fit.

Ham. Not a whit, we desire Augury, there is a speciall providence in the fall of a Sparrow: if it be, 'tis not to come, if it bee not to come, it will be now; if it be not now, yet it will come, the readinesse is all, since no man of ought he leaves knowes what is't to

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